RFI SN07-28

Strategic Collaboration

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

14 May 2007

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. **How do I ask a question that needs to be answered before I submit my information?**

A1. Email the question to SN07-28@darpa.mil.

Q2. **Would it be possible to have the PM identified, and informally speak (e.g., over the phone) with him/her?**

A2. The PM is Dr. Kendra Moore. Due to the large number of expected responses, all questions regarding this RFI should be routed through the RFI email account (SN07-28@darpa.mil); such emails will be reviewed by SETA contractors and coordinated with the PM as required. All white paper submissions should be made through the TFIMS system (register at https://www.tfims.darpa.mil/baa/propacctreqinit.asp); instructions for submitting white papers may be found at http://dtsn.darpa.mil/ixo/newsevents.asp.

Q3. **The RFI calls for non-proprietary responses. What if we wish to bring proprietary ideas to DARPA's attention?**

A3. There are other mechanisms for discussing proprietary ideas with DARPA; in general, identifying and contacting the most appropriate program manager is the first step. This RFI and workshop are only suitable for those who have an interest in communicating their analysis both to DARPA and to the wider community.

Q4. **Are there any "preferred" technologies that you are interested in?**

A4. DARPA is primarily interested in learning about all technologies that can be used directly or in concert with other technologies to provide the desired capabilities for Strategic Collaboration.

Q5. **If we don't fully crystallize our ideas for several months, will it be too late to discuss them with DARPA?**

A5. No. DARPA has many mechanisms whereby proposers can bring ideas to the attention of program managers at any time.

Q6. **I will be in the DARPA area in the near future. Can I meet with the Contracting Officer about this RFI?**

A6. Unfortunately, due to the number of responses expected, we cannot schedule one-on-one meetings with the Contracting Officer. If you have any questions or require clarification, please email SN07-28@darpa.mil.

Q7. **My organization is very interested in DARPA Solicitation SN07-28. However, the scope of the solicitation is larger than can be realistically handled by my organization. There are, however, aspects of this solicitation that are of great interest to us and very much in line with the**

research we traditionally undertake. **Is DARPA interested in White Paper submissions that address individual aspects of the solicitation?**

A7.   DARPA recognizes that it is highly unlikely, if not impossible, for a single organization to address the breadth and depth of technologies and capabilities described in the RFI. In fact, we think it will require a significant degree of collaboration across a wide variety of disciplines to achieve the goals of the effort. So, yes, DARPA is interested in White Paper submissions that address individual aspects of the solicitation.

Q8.   **Is it possible to extend the due date for submitting white papers?**

A8.   The deadline for submitting white papers for consideration for participation in the Strategic Collaboration workshop will not be extended. All interested parties are free to contact DARPA (via the RFI email link or directly to Dr. Moore) after the deadline regarding their ideas in the stated areas of interest; however, contacts made and materials submitted outside of the white paper submission process specified in SN07-28 will NOT be used in determining workshop participation.

Q9.   **We are in the process of drafting a white paper in response to SN07-28 but are concerned about the lack of proprietary protection for our submission. Based on the guidance listed in the Special Notice as well as the FAQ section, it does not appear that proprietary responses are recommended/allowed. It is unclear, however, if we should attempt to directly contact "the most appropriate program manager" (per the FAQ section), or if we should just avoid responding to the RFI.**

A9.   As stated in the RFI and in the answer to Q3 in this FAQ, only non-proprietary submissions will be considered for participation in the Strategic Collaboration workshop. You are free to approach DARPA, IXO, and/or the Strategic Collaboration program manager with your proprietary ideas in this or any other area, but must do so outside of the white paper submission process defined in SN07-28. As previously stated, proprietary material will NOT be considered in determining workshop participation. DARPA is looking for workshop participants to openly exchange ideas at the workshop in order to collaboratively advance our understanding of the current state of the art, capability needs, and technology gaps.

Q10.   **I have been waiting to receive my temporary password and/or account to upload my white paper and the deadline of 1 pm [Monday, 30 April 2007] is approaching. I have sent my white paper to [one of the email addresses listed in the RFI] in case I don't get the password and/or account in time.**

A10.   There were a number of people who had trouble uploading their white papers. After investigating each case, it was determined that the problem was user error, exacerbated by the presence of two similar DARPA solicitation entries, namely SN07-28 (for the Strategic Collaboration RFI) and BAA07-28 (a separate activity). Several individuals registered for BAA07-28 instead of SN07-28. White papers submitted for Strategic Collaboration via the T-FIMS Submission System

for RFI SN07-28 and BAA07-28, or emailed to the contracting officer or SN07-28 email address identified in the RFI by the deadline stated in the RFI will be considered for participation in the Strategic Collaboration workshop.

Q11. **My organization just found out about this RFI and would still like to respond. Can we still submit a white paper even though it is past the deadline?**

A11. As stated in the RFI, DARPA is in gathering information to determine whether or not to develop a program in Strategic Collaboration. We are interested in receiving any relevant information and ideas to assist in this process. Hence, all interested parties are welcome to submit white papers or other relevant information regarding Strategic Collaboration at any time. The purpose of the deadline for submitting white papers in the RFI was to provide a time window that will enable DARPA to identify organizations to invite to the workshop. Please note, white papers submitted after 1 pm EDT on 30 April 2007, will NOT be considered for participation in the upcoming workshop. Any additional materials can be submitted to SN07-28@darpa.mil. Due to the large number of white papers received by the deadline, all later submissions (white papers and other materials) will be reviewed AFTER the workshop invitations are sent out (i.e., not before 21 May 2007).

Q12. **I realize that you have probably received hundreds of emails regarding SN07-28, so I certainly do not intend to pressure you, but I am curious as to whether you have had an opportunity to look over my white paper regarding Strategic Collaboration. This is a topic that I am very passionate about, and would greatly appreciate any opportunity to participate in the upcoming Workshop and Exercise.**

A12. We received over 100 white paper submissions. We are in the process of reviewing the white papers. Our goal is to send out workshop invitations on or about 21 May. Due to the large volume of white papers received, we cannot comment on each one individually or provide any early feedback relative to workshop invitations.